



The State of New Hampshire
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES



Thomas S. Burack, Commissioner

January 15, 2008

The Honorable Martha Fuller Clark, Chairman
Energy, Environment and Economic Development Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 102
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Re: SB 417, relative to removal of dead, diseased or dying trees from the waterfront buffer established in the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act

Dear Chairman Fuller Clark:

Thank you for this opportunity to comment on SB 383, which would clarify the intent of the changes made to RSA 483-B, the Comprehensive Shoreland Protection Act (CSPA) during the previous legislative session. The Department of Environmental Services (DES) strongly supports this legislation since it will serve to clarify the statutory intent of legislation passed last year.

SB 417 will not result in any substantive changes in the revised shoreland protection standards established by the Legislature in 2007. The 2007 amendments in part limited the future removal of trees and saplings from a property's waterfront buffer based on a point system established in RSA 483-B:9, V(g)(2). SB 417 simply amends this section of the CSPA to clarify that this was not intended to include limitations on the removal of dead, diseased, or dying trees from the waterfront buffer.

Again, thank you for this opportunity to comment on this amended bill. Please feel free to call me at 271-3503, or Rene Pelletier at 271-2951, if you have any questions or need additional information.

Very truly yours,

Thomas S. Burack
Commissioner

cc: Representatives Borden, J. Day, and Grote
Senator Fuller Clark